

1113 BROADWAY
HIGHLAND, IL 62249



- The IPWSOA has recognized operators from Highland in the past.
- In 1987, Gervase Ottensmeier, was the Distribution System Operator of the Year.
- Ray Werner, former WTP Supervisor, was the Surface Water Operator of the Year in 1990.

Joe Gillespie
Director

Mike Lengermann
Supervisor ST & A

Russ Parker
Supervisor W&S

Bill Zimmer
Supervisor WRF

Mike Buss
Supervisor WTP

Clint Conrad
Resident Engineer

Sherry Kesner
Admin. Assistant

Public Works

(6 1 8) 6 5 4 - 6 8 2 3

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

State's Water Plant Operators Recognize "Best" In the State at Annual Event

2011 Operators of the Year named in Springfield

Springfield, Ill. –The Illinois Potable Water Supply Operators Association and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency recognized seven outstanding professionals in their individual categories of service. These operators produce and supply drinking water for Illinois consumers.

Nearly 800 members and guests of the Illinois Potable Water Operators Association (IPWSOA) honored Anthony (Tony) Hempen, City of Highland; Paul Rivett, Village of Seneca; and James (Jim) D. Blair, Village of Lena, for their outstanding work in consistently supplying safe drinking water on a daily basis to consumers, and their contributions to the industry.

Operators are rated on the day-to-day operation of facilities that use surface water or groundwater as their water source, or purchase water from another source and distribute it to consumers. "Operator of the Year" is the highest professional honor operators can receive in recognition of service and performance in the waterworks industry.

Tony Hempen, Surface Water Operator of the Year, serves as operator for the City of Highland, and has 13 years of experience in the water industry. Highland has 4,054 consumer service connections and pumps 1.2 million gallons of water each day. Tony implemented a new alum feed system at intake to help with pH control. He believes strongly in making decisions by brainstorming with all operators instead of "just doing it". He is a member of the Highland Moose Lodge, Helvetia Sharpshooters, a retired firefighter and a member of the Southwest Central Water Plant Operators Association.

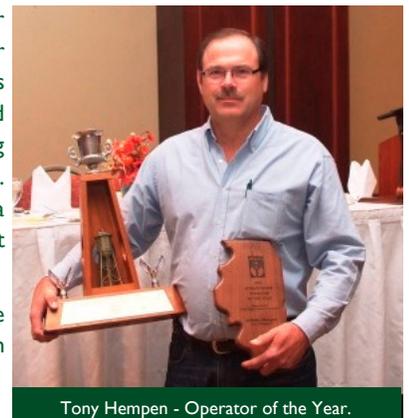
Paul Rivett, of the Village of Seneca is the Groundwater Operator of the Year. The Distribution System Operator of the Year honors went to Jim Blair, the Water Superintendent for the Village of Lena.

Winners and finalists are nominated by their peers, screened by a pre-selection committee, and chosen by a second committee that interviews nominees at their facilities during a fly-around of the state. Committee members, all operators, use a numeric system to rate nominees. The results are then tallied, and winners finalized by computer.

These operators were honored during the Association's 80th annual conference, September 14th, 15th & 16th in Springfield. Members from all regions of the state met to stay current on new industry regulations, equipment and processes. Winners of the 2011 awards were announced and received their trophies during the three day event.

Speakers and displays at the 2011 conference focused on safe operation, compliance with state and federal regulations, and new operational and analytical techniques and equipment.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the IPWSOA co-sponsor the conference. The Agency oversees operations of approximately 1,800 public water supplies serving Illinois and their compliance with federal and state drinking water regulations.



Tony Hempen - Operator of the Year.